THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The USSR extends all Government to Government credits to India in Roubles. As on 1st January, 1991 the total outstanding Soviet credit on Government account was Rs. 2134.26 crores, converted into Rupees at the rate of exchange of Rouble 1= Rs. 22.7855 on that date.

(b) From 2–2–1955 to 31–3–1991, the USSR Government have signed 18 agreements with Government of India for providing credits aggregating to Roubles 9995.36 million. The total disbursement in this period has been Roubles 2081.15 million. These credits are used for public sector projects in steel, power coal and oil sectors. Until April, 1977 the credits were repayable in 12 years with interest payment at 2.5% per annum. For agreements signed from April, 1977 the credits are repayable in 20 years inclusive of a grace period of 3 years with an interest of 2.5% per ammum.

In case of recent power projects credits have also been extended to cover local costs. These credits are repayable in five annual instalments and carry an interest rate of 1.5% per annum over and above the rate against 91 days treasury bills of the Government of India.

THe Soviet credits are denominated in Roubles but repayment of principal and payment of interest are made in non-convertible Indian Rupees which are utilised by the Soviet authorities for purchase of Indian goods for export to the USSR within the framework of the Indo-Soviet Trade Plan in force.

[*Translation*]

Export of Tea to USSR

2510. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of tea exports to USSR to the total quantity of tea exported during the last year;

(b)whether Indian tea has become costlier in the international market as a result of the devaluation of rupee;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent any adverse effects on the export of tea;

(d) whether the treaty to export tea to USSR has not been signed this year so far; and

(e) if so, the time by which the treaty is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) During 1990–91 the percentage of tea exports to USSR to the total estimated quantity of tea exported from India was 56.97 percent.

(b) and (c). The average unit export price at present would be US $ 2.14 per kg. equivalent to Rs.55.57 as compared to US $ 2.91 per kg. during 1990–91 equivalent to Rs. 52.40, which is on an average cheaper by about 26.46 percent as compared to the export price in dollars during the previous year.

(d) and (e). The trade plan for 1992 with USSR has not been signed so far. The annual protocol is normally signed by the end of the calendar year.

[*English*]

Modernisation of spinning Mills in Andhra Pradesh

2511. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: